(b) Temporary restoration work in Mahesh Kunt-Mansi section of NH-31 has already been taken up by the Road Construction Department, Bihar The restoration work in Saharsa-Maheshkunt section of NH-107 would be possible after floodwater recedes.

Upgradation of Highways in Rajasthan

†2509 DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has sent letters to him on 19th March, 2004 and 16th April, 2004 to declare parts of sixteen Highways as Highways,

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard and whether any time limit has been set in this regard,

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K H MUNIYAPPA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (d) Recently, in February 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 kms of State Roads including 988 kms. in Rajasthan as National Highways Due to paucity of funds, the Central Government is now not in a position to declare State Roads as National Highways

National Highways passing through Rajasthan

†2510 DR PRABHA THAKUR Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether proposals regarding strengthening and widening of National Highways passing through the State of Rajasthan have been forwarded by the State Government of Rajasthan to Government of India,

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme in this regard,

(c) if so, the outline and time limit thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K H MUNIYAPPA): (a) Eight proposals of widening and three proposals of strengthening the National Highways have been received in the Ministry amounting to Rs 76 07 crores and Rs 21 37 crores respectively during the current financial year.

(b) Annual Plan for the year 2004-05 has been formulated for sanction of estimates for an amount of Rs 159 50 crores for various improvement works including widening and strengthening works on National Highways in Rajasthan

(c) and (d) The proposals received from the Government of Rajasthan in respect of Annual Plan works are targeted for sanction during the current financial year depending upon the adequacy of technical parameters, availability of funds and *inter-se* priority of works

Highways in Kerala

2511 SHRI N K PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal seeking financial assistance for the development of Highways has been received from Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government consider to allot financial assistance required therefor;

(c) whether Government have allotted any financial assistance from the Central Reserve Fund for the development of Highways in Kerala,

(d) whether Government are undertaking any developmental works of bypasses in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K H MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for allocation of Rs. 400 crore for improvement of riding quality and completion of Bypasses in Kerala. However, an amount of Rs 71 crore has been allocated for National Highway works in Kerala during the current year due to the limited availability of funds